



Security Council

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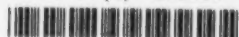
Original: English

Letter dated 31 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, issued on 30 March 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Richard Ryan
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 31 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued on 30 March 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union expresses its deep concern at the incidents which occurred during the night of 28 March 2004 in Kinshasa.

The European Union would encourage the Congolese leaders, the institutions of the transition and the Congolese people to remain calm and to continue their commitment to the transition dynamic as provided for in the All-Inclusive Agreement of 17 December 2002 and the Final Act of the inter-Congolese dialogue signed on 2 April 2003.

The European Union urges the institutions of the transition and all its components and groupings to take all the necessary measures to organize elections and restore order and the rule of law throughout the territory of the democratic Republic of the Congo as quickly as possible. It also calls upon them to pay particular attention to reforming the security sector — the army and the police — its social dimension included.

The European Union will continue to make its best endeavours for the transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Together with the member States it reiterates its commitment to supporting the transition institutions in the implementation of these reforms, inter alia by making suitable approaches to international financial institutions.

With reference to its recent statement, the European Union will continue to follow closely the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and remains committed to prosperity and stability for the Congolese people, who have suffered too long from this conflict.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

